



Local Bus Span of Service and Frequency

Transit Planning Board
Operations and Oversight Committee
March 22, 2007



Overview

- Importance of Local Bus
- Span of Service
- Service Availability
- Constraints
- Questions to Answer

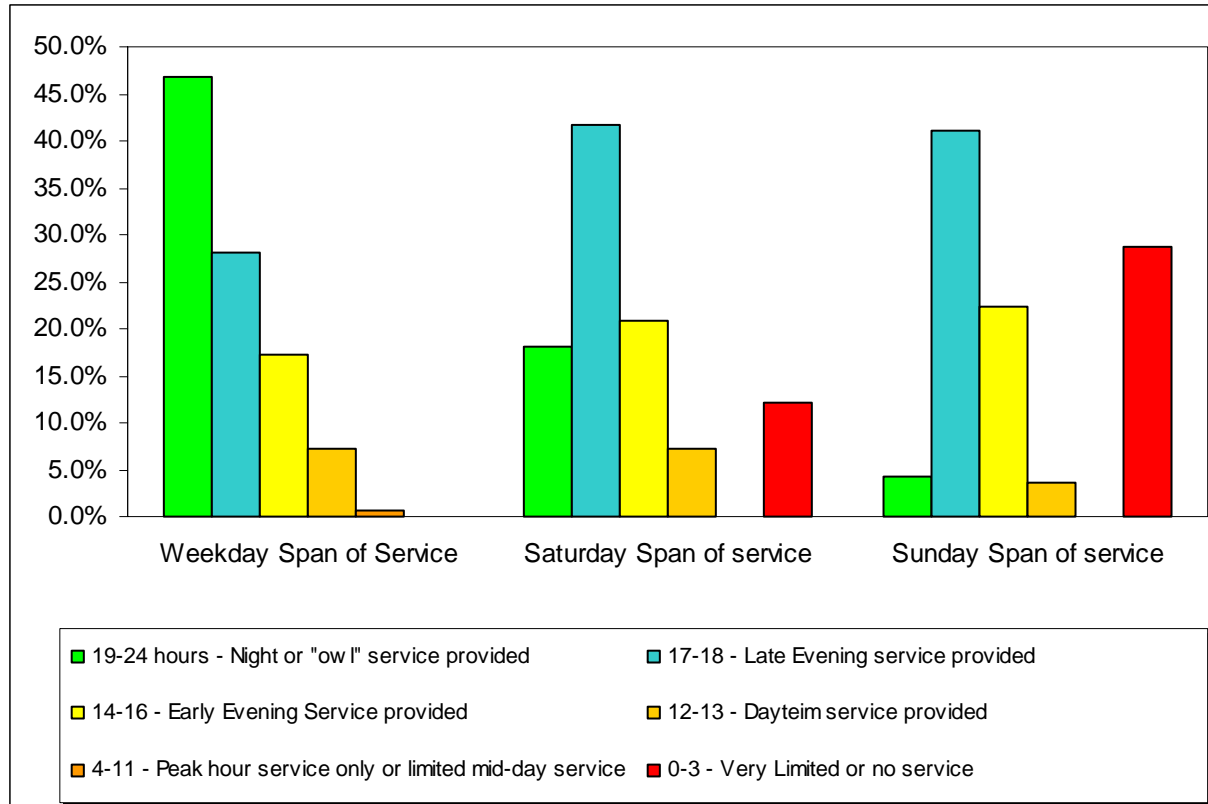


Importance of Local Bus

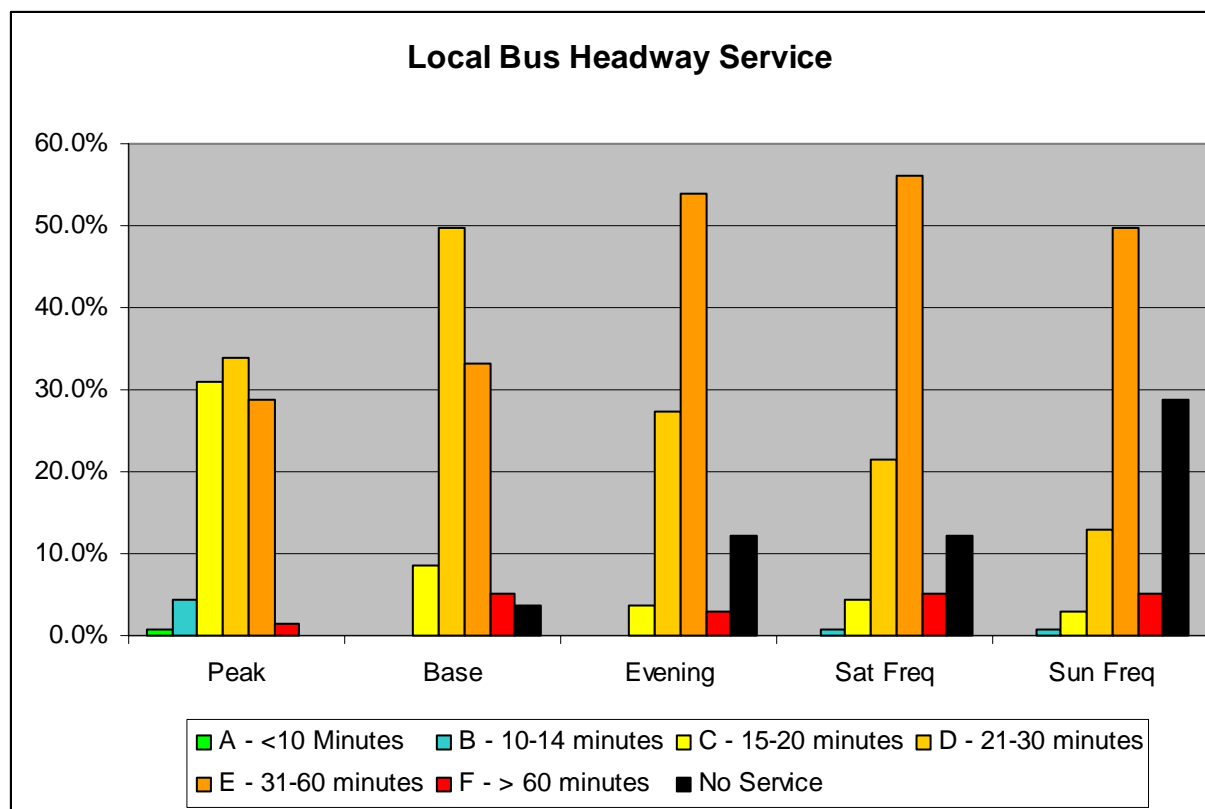
- 139 local bus routes, 32 express bus routes, 4 rail routes
- In 2005, 70.2 million local bus trips out of 143.8 million total transit trips (48.8%)
- 77% of MARTA riders use both bus and rail and 56% accessed the system by walking to the bus stop (FY 2006 Quality of Service Study)
- Local Buses provide the backbone feeder network for fixed-guideway systems



Span of Service – How many hours does route run?



Service Availability – How frequently does the bus come?



Service Quality

- The region does well in providing service throughout the day
 - Most routes operate through late evening on Weekdays and Saturdays, though over a ¼ of local routes don't operate on Sundays
- Region does not perform as well regarding frequency
 - After 8 PM, Saturdays and Sundays, over 50% of local routes operate only once per hour
 - Only seven local routes (<5%) of all local routes operate at headways of less than 15 minutes
 - No local route has a headway of <15 minutes during midday weekdays



Regional Desires

- Regional Research shows public desires convenient, frequent and reliable service
 - 2003 Harris Interactive Poll (MACOC)
 - MARTA FY 2006 Quality of Service Study
 - Downtown / Midtown Bus Circulation Study – Onboard Survey (2005)
- Suggests that to successfully increase transit ridership – increase in local bus is a necessary component



Constraints

- Current operations show regional consensus on operating throughout the day
- Public desire for frequent, reliable, convenient service
- Current headways are not frequent on almost all routes



Questions to be answered

- 1) Is it more important to have high-frequency service in major areas or to provide complete geographic coverage of the region?
- 2) What is considered to be “high-frequency” by the region? Every 10 minutes, 20 minutes, 30 minutes, an hour?

